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(b)(3)-P.L. 86-36

NSA STAFF PROCESSING FORM

* 54850 *

TO D/DIR *met NSP*

EXRE

THRU EXEC/DIR *WJG*

SUBJECT VENONA Release Phase 2 - UPDATE

KCC CONTROL NUMBER

ddp-1354-95

ACTION

☐

APPROVAL

☐

SIGNATURE

☒

INFORMATION

EXREG SUSPENSE

KCC SUSPENSE

ELEMENT SUSPENSE

DISTRIBUTION

ExReg, DDP, DDS, DDO, OGC, E3 (Hatch), M5 (Benson), N5, N5P, N5P4, N5P5, N5P6

SUMMARY

The VENONA Working Group is aiming for a 27 September release for phase 2 of the VENONA documents. This release will include all the 1942-1943 KGB NY translations - approximately 250 in total. The following is a progress report to date:

FOIA - The critical issue in the phase 2 release is that these documents present challenges regarding the personal privacy issue that were not present in the first release (e.g., names with home addresses, many foreign names). The documents have been dispatched to UKLO, FBI and CIA for coordination; FBI will have the biggest role and they promise to have a response back to NSA by ~~31 Aug~~ *early September*. Once the external input is finalized, FOIA will amend the documents and request the D/DIR review the highlighted package before the final redactions are made.

HISTORIANS - Mr. Benson has prepared a draft monograph to accompany the 2nd release (attached). We will be editing this document as we go along prior to release.

MUSEUM - Because the information contained in the phase 2 documents does not easily translate into a coherent museum display theme, the NCM will make only minor modifications/additions to the current museum exhibit on VENONA. Copies of some phase 2 documents will be on display and the monograph will be available to visitors. NCM anticipates making more comprehensive changes for the phase 3 release in December 1995, possibly involving a third display case.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS - Because it was very useful in phase 1, the working group is preparing a short "murder board" of potential questions from the media/public. In addition, PAO is considering two primary issues: 1. the most effective way to publicize the release of the information (low key, but not invisible), and, 2. the most efficient way to provide the public with copies of the translations. We are pursuing a minimal publicity strategy for phase 2 and then something a bit larger for phase 3. We are also trying to incorporate the Internet home page as much as possible. (We will avoid overexposure of these releases so that, by the time of the 6th release, we have not made the information seem stale or the release look like "more of the same.")

COORDINATION / APPROVAL

(Continued next page)

OFFICE	NAME AND DATE	SECURE PHONE	OFFICE	NAME AND DATE	SECURE PHONE
DDP	<i>rw 9/1</i>		N5	<i>J Goumuro 8/9</i>	<i>54545</i>
N5P	<i>has seen 30 Aug</i>	<i>3083</i>			
EXREG	<i>9/1/95</i>	<i>3201</i>			

ORIGINATOR

Judith A. Emmel, Chief *Judith A. Emmel*

ORG

N5P4

PHONE (Secure)

963-5825

DATE PREPARED

29 August 1995

Classified by:

Declassified on:

Approved for Release by
NSA on 07-03-2014,
FOIA Case # 42771

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NEXT TASKS:

1. PAO will prepare a press release to send to all media who have expressed interest (a list which totals about 100). We will include a general summary of what is contained in the translations, along with instructions on where and how to obtain copies of all documents released to date. Pictures of the museum display will be included with the press release. We have also discussed staging the D/DIR in a short video announcement to supply to TV media and to put on the NSA home page to accompany the documents when they are placed on the Internet. No museum ceremony is planned to mark the phase 2 release.

2. VENONA phase 1 translations have been established on the internal NSA MOSAIC system, thanks to the efforts of R5. R5 is awaiting the PAO go-ahead to move these to the external system. We intend to withhold Internet release until the phase 2 release and post both phase 1 and phase 2 documents at that time. The press release will state that all information released to date is available for public viewing via the Internet, and we will supply the Internet address. ✓

Because we have found that many reporters and most of the general public do not have access to Internet accounts, we are also exploring ways to make the information available to the public in print in a way that will not drain Agency resources. We have entered discussions with GPO to see whether they would distribute the material via hard-copy at a price designated to cover printing costs.